

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 118734
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:JFC
APPROVED BY NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
-----240253Z 015234 /63
R 232157Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 118734

FROM DRAPER, NEA/ARN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, PFOR, PGOV, IZ, U.S.

SUBJECT: RETURN OF ARCHEOLOGICAL ARTIFACTS

1. FATHER CARNEY GAVIN, CURATOR, HARVARD UNIVERSITY SEMITIC MUSEUM, WISHES TO VISIT IRAQ IN MID-SEPTEMBER FOR ABOUT TEN DAYS. HIS BASIC MISSION IS TO RE-ESTABLISH AMICABLE RELATIONS BETWEEN HARVARD INSTITUTIONS AND THE IRAQ MUSEUM AND RELATED IRAQI ORGANIZATIONS. HE WILL BE BRINGING WITH HIM SOME OF THE CUNEIFORM TABLETS EXCAVATED BY HARVARD FROM NUZI, NEAR KIRKUK, SOME 50 YEARS AGO. UNDER THE TERMS OF THE EXCAVATION AGREEMENT UP TO APPROXIMATELY 660 SUCH TABLETS ARE TO BE RETURNED. FATHER GAVIN INTENDS TO PROPOSE A TRAVELING EXHIBITION IN 1979-80 WHEN THEY WILL BE READY FOR TRANSPORT.

2. WHILE IN IRAQ, GAVIN WOULD ALSO LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH IRAQI EXPERTS PROBLEMS OF CONSERVATION, REBAKING AND STORAGE OF SUCH TABLETS. HE WISHES TO BRING WITH HIM A SPECIALIST IN MACRO PHOTOGRAPHY IN ORDER TO SECURE RECORDS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 118734

OF THE TABLETS THE IRAQIS THEMSELVES HAVE. IDEALLY, ALSO, HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT NUZI.

3. THERE IS WHITE HOUSE INTEREST IN THIS VISIT. AMONG OTHER THINGS, IT COULD HELP NORMALIZE U.S./IRAQI RELATIONSHIPS IN A MUTUALLY USEFUL FIELD. ONE PROBLEM HAS BEEN THAT GAVIN'S LETTERS TO THE IRAQ MUSUEM HAVE GONE UN-

ANSWERED. WE PRESUME IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR USINT TO
LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR THIS VISIT, GET IN TOUCH WITH THE
IRAQI MUSEUM AUTHORITIES AND OTHERS, ON GAVIN'S BEHALF.
PLEASE ADVISE IF YOU FORESEE ANY PROBLEMS WE HAVE NOT
ANTICIPATED HERE. OTHERWISE, INSTRUCTIONS TO MOVE AHEAD
ON FOREGOING LINES WILL BE SENT IN ABOUT A WEEK. VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARCHEOLOGY, FOREIGN RELATIONS, CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE118734
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MDRAPER:JFC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770184-0353
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770527/aaaaaxbd.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 03a4bf8b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2402381
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RETURN OF ARCHEOLOGICAL ARTIFACTS
TAGS: SCUL, PFOR, PGOV, IZ, US, (GAVIN, CARNEY)
To: BAGHDAD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/03a4bf8b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009